

IV. REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 21-27 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and claim 7 have been amended, claims 11 – 20 have been cancelled, and claims 21-27 have been added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge the election with traverse of Group I, claims 1-10.

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because the drawings allegedly fail to show a feature specified in claim 5. Applicants respectfully traverse this objection based on the fact that an interior sloped side 24 that is planar is shown in Fig. 1 and 2. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of this objection.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Addis (U.S. Patent No. 3,555,946); claims 5 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Addis in view of Kiyoshi (JP5138595); claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Addis in view of Hanas (U.S. Patent No. 3,635,067); and claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Addis in view of Amarakoon (U.S. Patent No. 5,628,502) further in view of Nakayama (U.S. Patent No. 5,451,044). Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are patentable and the above rejection should be withdrawn.

With regard to claim 1, Addis fails to teach each and every claim element and therefore does not anticipate the claimed invention. In the claimed invention, the apparatus comprises "a duct including an interior sloped side, the interior sloped side creating a first opening for

receiving the part and a second opening." Addis fails to disclose, *inter alia*, an interior sloped side. In Addis, the sloped part of the metal guide apron 30 is outside of the press shear 16 (Fig. 4 and 5). In particular, a vertical opening of the press shear 16 ends prior to the metal guide apron 30 (Fig. 4 and 5). As a result, the press shear 16 in Addis does not have an interior sloped side within a duct - see Figs. 4 and 5. Also, apron 30 does not form a duct because it has no side walls or upper wall - see Fig. 7. In addition, Addis fails to disclose, *inter alia*, a "first opening for receiving the part and a second opening." The slope of the metal guide apron 30 in Addis does not form openings because the apron is simply a metal plate with no sides or other adjacent structure to form an opening with - see Fig. 7. Similarly, apron 30 in Addis has no side walls or upper wall at a lower end thereof, and therefore does not provide a second opening.

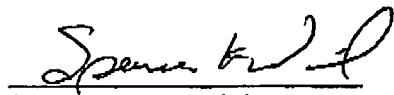
Claims 2-10 are believed allowable for the same reasons, as well as for their own additional features. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

With regard to new claims 21-27, these claims are believed to be within the scope of Group I, claims 1-10. New independent claim 21 comprises features similar to claims 1 and 7 that are believed to place the claim in condition for allowance, such as a "convex contoured end of the container [that] substantially conforms to the curled shape of the part." New independent claim 24 comprises features similar to claims 1 and 6 that are believed to place the claim in condition for allowance, such as "a duct including a plurality of interior sloped sides, the interior sloped sides creating a first opening for receiving the part and a second opening." As stated above, the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest these features, among others.

Applicants have revised the specification to provide explicit support for amended claim 7 and new claims 21 and 25. Applicants submit that the original disclosure including, in particular, the drawings (Fig. 2) provides antecedent for this revision, and no new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Spencer K. Warnick
Reg. No. 40,398

Date: 7/22/03

Hoffman, Warnick & D'Alessandro LLC
Three E-Comm Square
Albany, New York 12207
(518) 449-0044
(518) 449-0047 (fax)